



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

Ref: S&C-03-23

DATE: June 12, 2003

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Clarification of Designations of “Distinct Part” in the State Operation Manual,
(Pub. 7)

TO: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)
State Survey Agency Directors

The purpose of this letter is to respond to concerns raised by the Secretary’s Committee for Regulatory Reform and to clarify the designation of distinct parts in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and nursing facilities (NF) as described in the State Operations Manual (SOM), §3202 – Change in Size or Location of Participating SNF and/or NF.

Background

When the SOM was revised to include policies and procedures for providers requesting changes in the size of distinct parts, a diagram was included to assist States and Regions in determining the parameters of a “distinct part.” Also included were written examples.

Clarification

The diagram and written examples were intended only to be examples of how compliance with the definition of distinct parts can be met, **but do not constitute the only configurations that are allowed for compliance with statute and regulations.**

If a provider does not meet the specific examples included in section 3202.A.1. of the SOM, the facility must be able to demonstrate how it meets the definition of a distinct part.

Effective Date: This policy is in effect immediately.

Training: This policy should be shared with all appropriate survey and certification staff, their managers, and the state/regional office training coordinator.

/s/
Steven A. Pelovitz